



FIG. 1. *Regina rigida sinicola* removed from the stomach of a harvested *Alligator mississippiensis*.

294:325–333). During that study, this alligator was first captured on 25 July 2000, approximately 1.8 km away from the harvest location (31.936580°N, 95.861038°W; datum WGS 84). The total length of this alligator in 2000 was 1125.0 mm. The alligator grew 703.8 mm over the 10 year, 10 month, 10 day time period (~64.9 mm/year). This growth rate is very similar to those published for wild female alligators of the same size in Louisiana (~60 mm/year; Chabreck and Joanen 1979. *Herpetologica* 35:51–57). After the alligator was skinned, the stomach was removed and dissected. The only prey item identified was a large female *R. r. sinicola* (SVL = 595 mm; tail length = 149 mm; TCWC 95590; Fig. 1).

We thank Tucker Slack and Jeff Gunnels at Texas Parks and Wildlife for allowing us to attend the first public alligator hunt at GEWMA.

WADE A. RYBERG (e-mail: waryberg@tamu.edu) and **TOBY J. HIBBITTS** (e-mail: thibbitts@tamu.edu), Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77845, USA.

CAIMAN LATIROSTRIS (Broad-snouted Caiman). FLOATING NEST. The Broad-snouted Caiman (*Caiman latirostris*) is a Neotropical crocodilian that occurs from northeastern Brazil to the Plata River basin in Argentina. Nests of the species are made with leaves and other organic matter taken from the soil, and are established next to marginal vegetation at the rivers and lakes banks. Like other crocodilians, nests of this species are eventually affected negatively by fluctuations of water levels, with the flooding of river margins and lakes leading to a decrease in hatching success (Campos and Magnusson 1995. *J. Trop. Ecol.* 11:351–358). The nests of South American crocodilians are commonly attacked by several predators, such as tegu lizards (*Tupinambis* spp.), carnivorous mammals (e.g., *Nasua nasua*, *Procyon cancrivorus*, and *Cerdodon thous*), and ants (Campos 2003. *Boletim de Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento*, Embrapa Pantanal. 22 pp.; Staton and Dixon 1977. U.S. Dept. of the Interior Fish. Wildl. Serv. Res. Report 5. 21 pp.), and the main protection strategy of the species usually consists of a constant vigilance of the nest by the female. However, this strategy is inefficient against small



FIG. 1. Nest of *Caiman latirostris* on a floating "island" of marsh vegetation of about 6 m of diameter at Lagoa do Rio Preto, municipality of Guaratuba, state of Paraná, southern Brazil. Trees and marsh vegetation in the background of the photograph are not part of the floating island, being at ground level and covered by about 2 m of water column.

predators like ants, and is of no use at all to avoid fluctuations in water levels.

On 22 January, 2010, we found a nest of *C. latirostris* in a marsh (Fig. 1) at Lagoa do Rio Preto (25.753333°S, 48.713889°W, ca. 3 m elev.), municipality of Guaratuba, state of Paraná, southern Brazilian coast. The area is subject to periodic increases in water level, and to deal with this an individual *C. latirostris* built its nest in a patch of floating vegetation of about 6 m in diameter and that was >50 m from the surrounding upland margins. The nest consisted of a pile of *Fuirena* sp. (Cyperaceae) and *Panicum mertensii* (Poaceae) of about 1 m high, clustered in an area of about 4 m of diameter. Two weeks later, we found several hatchlings in the area. According to a local resident, *C. latirostris* was observed using nests in floating vegetation at the Lagoa do Rio Preto for several years. This represents the first record of a floating nest constructed by *C. latirostris*. Because floating marshes are not covered by water, including during rainfall (Reinert et al. 2007. *Rev. Brasil. Ornitol.* 15:493–519), we consider that the placement of a nest in floating vegetation represents an important nesting strategy, as it avoid the effects of fluctuating water levels and attack by predators that do not swim.

We thank Christoph Hrdina, Kitty Harvill, and David Wiedenfeld for help with field work, and Charles Wikler for the revision on the English language of the manuscript.

MARCOS RICARDO BORNSCHEIN, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ecologia e Conservação, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Centro Politécnico, Jardim das Américas, CEP 81531-990, and Mater Natura – Instituto de Estudos Ambientais, Rua Lamenha Lins 1080, CEP 80250-020, Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil (e-mail: bornschein.marcao@gmail.com); **RICARDO BELMONTE-LOPES**, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Zoologia, Dept. de Zoologia, Lab. De Dinâmica Evolutiva e Sistemas Complexos, Universidade Federal do Paraná, Caixa Postal 19073, CEP 81531-990, and Mater Natura – Instituto de Estudos Ambientais (e-mail: rbelmonte.lopez@gmail.com); **BIANCA LUIZA REINERT**, Mater Natura – Instituto de Estudos Ambientais (e-mail: biancareinert@yahoo.com.br); **SÉRGIO AUGUSTO ABRAHÃO MORATO**, STCP Engenharia de Projetos Ltda., Rua Euzébio da Motta, 450, CEP 80.530-260, Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil (e-mail: smorato@stcp.com.br).